



The Jewish **Veteran**[®]

Fall, 1989

By Warren S. Dolny
National Editor

Dear Sir:

I recently had occasion to make a trip to Long Island, NY, and visited the grave sites of my parents and my brother, who was KIA in WW 2.

They are interred in the Mount Lebanon Cemetery. My brother, PFC Louis Schiller, with many others in special service mens area.

I was extremely impressed with the thoughtfulness of your local chapter's placement of flags, in your special JWV stands, at the headstone of all the servicemen, not only in this special Workman's Circle section, but throughout the entire cemetery, where servicemen were interred.

A moving sight!

Thank you very much for your gravesite, flag remembrance policy.

Sincerely,
J.D. Schiller

Dear Sir:

I am writing to thank you for receiving the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America Award for Senior year design project in Marine Engineering on 23 May 1989. I am honored to be the recipient of such a prestigious award. I plan on continuing to put to use the qualities that this award was based upon. Thank you again for presenting me with this award.

Sincerely,
John Hicks, Ens. USCG

A Sad Note:

The staff of the Jewish War Veterans were very saddened at the passing of our beloved friend and co-worker, Jesse McIver. Jesse worked at National Headquarters since 1977 and was one of our most dedicated and loyal employees.

Jesse is survived by a son, daughter and five grandchildren who reside in his home town of Fayetteville, NC. Jesse will be deeply missed, not only by his family, but by all of us at the National Headquarters. May he rest in peace.

Dear Veterans:

While to many the term "veteran" likely invokes images of fighting and bloodshed, of suffering and struggle, it is most synonymous with peace. Without those who have been willing to step forward and stand vigil over peace at considerable sacrifice and risk, there would be none.

Peace, though, is more than just absence of war or a society quietly going about its business. It is far more complex. True peace involves the right of a people to nurture ideals, to effect their destinies, and to wield their freedoms unimpeded. Peace is independence, a golden commodity millions seek to obtain.

There is a new wind blowing around the world. We've felt it in the continuing flight of East German refugees from oppression. We've witnessed it through the intrepid stand of Chinese citizens in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. We've seen it in the obstinacy of freedom fighters in Nicaragua. We've felt it in the courage of Baltic citizens in the Soviet Union . . . defiantly demanding their freedom. What they seek is what we Americans possess and often take for granted.

Even Americans stand at the edge of a precarious peace, and nothing threatens our footing more than apathy toward our defenders. Our democracy rests upon a foundation of their courage and selflessness. In moments of solitude, sacrifice and pain, they never forgot us. In our moments of adversity, as well as prosperity, we must never forget them.

G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (D-MS)

Editor's Note: The writer of this letter is Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and recent recipient of the JWV Medal of Merit.

Good things come to those who wait. This expression aptly describes the time lag that occurred between our Summer, 1989 newsletter which was mailed in July and our Convention, 1989 magazine. On behalf of the Editorial Board, we apologize for the delay in bringing you the previous issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. In a perfect world, there would be unquestioned coordination between the editorial offices, typesetters and printers. Unfortunately, circumstances arose in the technical preparation of the previous issue, which prevented timely printing and distribution.

However, in every gray cloud, there is a silver lining. Our Associate Editor Howard Metzger and our National Director of Communications and Programs Michelle Spivak Kelley, spent countless hours getting the magazine together. What most of you don't realize is the long hours that go into producing this magazine. It is indeed a labor of not only love, but sweat and tears. Both Michelle and Howard performed tremendously in the face of these delays, and I want to thank them personally for their exemplary work and continued excellence in producing that which is *The Jewish Veteran*.

This issue is dedicated to those special men and women who volunteer their time to help those less fortunate whether they be at VA hospitals, homeless shelters, or other places where the ill and destitute of our society live. Additionally, this issue touches on the work of those who have brightened the lives of wheelchair bound veterans, elderly citizens and our men and women of the United States Armed Forces who serve far from home, and feel the loneliness of holiday time.

The national shame of the homeless is featured in this issue. JWV, has for many years, been at the forefront in the fight for housing and aide to alleviate the plight of our homeless citizens, especially the predicament of the homeless veteran. For those of us fortunate enough to have a roof over our heads, we must always be aware of those who have no place to sleep, and fight for their basic human rights.

On behalf of the entire Editorial Board, may this Chanukah season bring peace and good health to you and your loved ones. 1989 was a very successful year for JWV, and with your help, 1990 will be even greater. ■

The Jewish Veteran®

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On The Cover

The menorah and the surrounding art work, replicate the cover of JWV/NMI's new

Photography:

Edward Owen, Washington, D.C.

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During my first months as your National Commander, I have represented our organization at a variety of important functions and meetings, promoting JWV and our members to many prominent national figures and veterans' leaders.

One of my first official acts as National Commander was to be present at a ceremony honoring former President Ronald Reagan. ISAW (Institute for the Study of American Wars), of which JWV participates on the Advisory Board, bestowed upon Mr. Reagan its "Lifetime Achievement Award", for his lifetime support of veterans. Mr. Reagan spoke very kindly of JWV, as he remembered the support we provided him during his years in the White House.

Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and I, had the opportunity to address an issue that has been troubling both our constituencies both in California and throughout the country. A need for new veterans' homes needs to be erected. The average age of the World War II veteran is approximately seventy. These buildings are urgently needed to care for those aged veterans. These facilities are built by the states and financed by the federal government. My suggestion for placement of this facility was warmly received by the Senator and his chief counsel.

During my visit to Washington, D.C., I had the honor of interviewing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward Derwinski. This meeting was taped for the monthly veterans' public service television program produced by the Department of California. In a detailed and

comprehensive conversation covering a wide range of veterans' issues, the Secretary reiterated his support for adequate veterans' health care.

Among the topics I discussed with the Secretary was the ability of the DVA to respond to the increasing relocation of veterans to the Southeast and Southwest, the deteriorating condition of VA hospitals, the bed closings and acute nursing shortages in DVA health facilities, and the adequate funding for medical research in the area of prosthetics, Alzheimers Disease, heart conditions, and other diseases that affect older Americans. It was my impression that veterans have a friend in Secretary Derwinski. His support of our rights was strong and determined, and his excellent working relationship with President Bush is an encouraging sign that our needs will be properly addressed.

During a reception at the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), I had the opportunity to meet and talk with a number of Pentagon officials, Veterans' and Congressional leaders, including Rep. Bill Green (R-NY), a JWV member, and House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS).

I received a well-rounded briefing at AIPAC (American-Israel Public Affairs Committee). We are seeking to implement a closer working relationship between JWV and AIPAC. I assured the leadership of AIPAC that our members are fierce defenders of Israel, who will go to any lengths to insure the sovereignty of our spiritual homeland.

An issues briefing of the Walter Reed



NC Rosen with White House Chief of Staff John Sununu

Army Medical Center by Maj. Gen. Richard D. Cameron, M.D. and a tour by Public Relations Director Ben Smith, demonstrated the fascinating work done to advance medical science. I was particularly impressed with the advances in cardio-vascular care and prosthetics work. I also had the opportunity to visit some of the wards at the Medical Center, the Army's largest medical facility, and the physical therapy and rehabilitation clinic. I assured General Cameron during our meeting, that I would present the needs of Walter Reed during my meetings with members of Congress and other appropriate times.

As I travel around the United States and the world in the coming months representing our organization, I intend to continue to stress the selflessness of our members and the dedication to veterans worldwide that is the hallmark of our membership. We have much to be proud of, and as your National Commander, you can be sure your work and efforts will not go unnoticed. ■



NC Rosen meets with Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, (D-MS) Chmn., House Veterans' Affairs Cmte., and past recipient of the JWV Medal of Merit.